

For Immediate Release
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APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

NASHVILLE, TN. - April has been designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Department of Children's Services, along with many local agencies, will take the opportunity to promote awareness as well as prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The Department of Children's Services is the legislatively mandated entity that investigates child abuse and neglect allegations. Last year, DCS investigated almost 39,000 reports of child abuse and neglect. Child abuse occurs when a child is neglected or mistreated resulting in an injury or the child is at risk of being harmed. A child can be abused by physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or psychological harm.

Tennessee law mandates that anyone who has direct knowledge or suspicions of child abuse or neglect should report this information to the Department of Children's Services, law enforcement, the District Attorney's office, or the Juvenile Court.

"Child abuse is a widespread problem in Tennessee and throughout the entire country and it can not be tolerated," stated Commissioner Viola Miller. "During the month of April, a special emphasis will be placed on educating the public to recognize children in danger and encouraging people to take action to prevent further acts of violence and neglect."

Please visit the Department of Children's Services website at www.state.tn.us/youth or contact the following DCS offices for Child Abuse Prevention Month activities scheduled in your area.

Shelby County: 901-578-4000

Northwest Region: 731-855-7874

Southwest Region: 731-423-5812

South Central Region: 931-380-2587

Mid-Cumberland Region: 615-217-8900

Davidson County: 615-532-4414

Upper Cumberland Region: 931-646-3000

Hamilton County: 423-634-6412

Knox County: 865-594-7101

Southeast Region: 423-493-5920

Northeast Region: 423-854-5311

East Region: 865-425-4400

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